

## Allied prisoners in good condition

ROME (AP) — The Italian Red Cross has been told that all allied prisoners of war held by Iraq are in good condition, Defence Minister Virgilio Rognoni said Friday. Mr. Rognoni said the information was given to Italy by the head of the Algerian Red Crescent who just returned from Iraq. The minister said the news was "comforting" but there was no way to immediately verify it. Mr. Rognoni also confirmed that allied and Iraqi military commanders would meet Saturday in Iraq to discuss the release of POWs and other terms of the ceasefire. He said the meeting will be held near Basra and allied commanders will demand that Iraq leaves its weapons behind. Italian General Mario Arpino will be part of the allied delegation. Mr. Rognoni said one Italian airman is known to be held by Iraq and a second is listed as missing in action.

# Jordan Times

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## France: U.N. must enforce all resolutions

PARIS (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand said the U.N. Security Council must make sure all its resolutions, including those on the Palestinian question, are enforced and not just those applying to Iraq. "I have not forgotten the resolutions voted year after year and too often ignored," Mr. Mitterrand told the Dutch daily NRC Handelsblad, a clear reference to resolutions on the Palestinian question. "The Security Council should work to enforce (these resolutions) with the same determination in each case and for all the region," he added in the interview. Arabs have accused the West of hypocrisy, saying that while the U.N. insisted Iraq accept its 12 resolutions demanding its withdrawal from Kuwait, it failed to enforce those calling for Israel's withdrawal from occupied territories. Mr. Mitterrand said the end of the Gulf war presented the Security Council, of which France is a permanent member, with a challenge. "We are at a turning point... will the Security Council be capable of extending and developing the coherent action undertaken since (the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on) August 2?"

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# Allies, Iraqis meet today on ceasefire

Combined agency dispatches

U.S. PRESIDENT George Bush announced Friday that allied and Iraqi military leaders would meet Saturday afternoon in the war zone to discuss terms of a ceasefire, including a return of prisoners of war (POWs).

He declined to specify where the meeting would be held, citing security concerns.

In reply to a question, Mr. Bush said he did not believe that the meeting could discuss establishment of a security zone between Iraq and Kuwait. Rather, he said, Secretary of State James Baker would cover that issue during his upcoming Middle East trip.

Mr. Bush said at a White House news conference that he was confident the Iraqis would return all allied prisoners of war, but said, "put it this way, they'd better comply."

Mr. Bush said American troops would be coming home soon, but did not provide any additional information.

He said he didn't believe the Iraqi people had been told the extent of their battlefield losses.

"Truth is, we have destroyed Iraq's armour, and I see people dancing in the street" declaring they will win, Mr. Bush said.

Mr. Bush would only say that allied commander General Norman Schwarzkopf and other allied leaders would meet their Iraqi counterparts "in the theatre of operations." He said this was an "important step in securing vic-

tory" by the U.S.-led allies over Iraqi forces during the six-week war that Mr. Bush declared over on Wednesday night.

The president said he would still like the Iraqi people to topple Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and bring Iraq "back to the family of peace-loving nations."

But he said there were no plans for the allies themselves to move against President Saddam. "We are not targeting Saddam and we have no claim on Iraqi territory," he said.

But he noted that "nobody can be absolved of responsibility under international law."

U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said Friday that the United States was prepared to start bombing Iraq again if Baghdad resumed hostilities in the Gulf war.

"If they were to launch a Scud at Saudi Arabia or Israel or take some other hostile act, there is no question but we would resume hostilities," Mr. Cheney said during an interview on ABC television's "Good Morning America."

"Probably what we would do is to open up the air campaign again. There are a number of additional targets we could go after," Mr. Cheney said.

He also said Iraq must agree to quickly return U.S. and allied prisoners of war before a permanent ceasefire takes effect.

"We will not agree to a ceasefire or have arrangements made for a ceasefire until we are satisfied that we will receive our prisoners in short order," Mr.

Cheney said. He said Gen. Schwarzkopf or another senior officer would probably meet Iraqi officers to discuss details of the ceasefire. He said the talks would be in Iraqi territory now held by the United States.

Mr. Cheney said "thousands and thousands" of Iraqis were killed in the Gulf war but the exact number may never be known.

He said Iraqi prisoners would be interviewed and those suspected of having taken part in "atrocities" against Kuwaitis would be turned over to authorities in Kuwait. Others who wanted to return to Iraq would be sent home eventually.

"I do not expect a large U.S. ground presence over the long term. There may be a transitional period for example in Kuwait where we might be part of a multinational force."

"We may well go to a rotational policy now that we've got the basic combat over with," Cheney added. "We don't want to keep anybody there any longer than we have to."

Mr. Cheney said U.S. troops would be sent home as soon as possible, but it may take several months for the pullout to be complete. He said the first units to return would probably be those which were sent to the Gulf first, such as the 82nd airborne division and the air force's 1st tactical wing.

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## Algeria denies Saddam report

ATLANTA, Georgia (Agency) — Algeria's ambassador to the United States denied Friday that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had asked his government for asylum.

Ambassador Abdul Rahman Benifid told reporters: "It is only a rumour — there is an official denial in Algeria."

The French newspaper *Le Monde* reported from Algiers on Friday that President Saddam had decided to step down and had asked Algerian authorities for asylum.

"Algerian authorities are seeking assurances from the coalition allies that they will not pursue Saddam Hussein once he is in exile," *Le Monde* wrote.

Asked about the plausibility of such an offer, Mr. Benifid said: "It is up to the Iraqi people to deal with this situation."

Mr. Benifid was in Atlanta to deliver a speech to the American-Arab Affairs Council annual meeting.

President Saddam, bitter over being "cut loose" by the Soviet Union, inquired through unspecified channels on Wednesday if Algeria would be willing to grant him political asylum, *Le Monde* asserted.

Algerian authorities agreed to the request on the conditions that it was acceptable to the new Iraqi leadership, and that no attempt would be made by the coalition to make President Saddam accountable for war crimes or reparations, *Le Monde* said in its front-page report.

It said Algeria received assurances on the latter point from the allies.

U.S. President George Bush cast doubt in Washington Friday that such clemency would be possible.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said in Washington that he knew nothing of such a move by President Saddam.

"I don't think any tears would be shed if Saddam Hussein were to leave power," Mr. Baker told reporters Friday after a meeting with German Foreign Minister Hans-Dieter Genscher.

Mr. Baker said any question of President Saddam seeking asylum



## King urges Arab reconciliation

Jordan happy with Kuwaitis regaining their country, also shares Iraqis' wounds and pain

## Democracy can save Arabs from pitfalls of conflict

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein appealed Friday for reconciliation in the divided Arab World.

In his first address to the nation since Aug. 6, the King said:

"We would like to assure the whole world that Jordan throws its arms open wide to all those who wish to establish friendly relations based on mutual respect and cooperation."

"Gloating and apportioning blame are not Arab traits, nor are they compatible with their spiritual values because they lead to enmity, hatred and alienation," King Hussein said.

"On this day we see the beginning of a new Arab era, a new

dawn between Iraq and Kuwait marked by reconciliation and reconstruction in both countries," he said.

The King warned of further unrest in the region if the gap between rich and poor were not addressed.

"... We must also focus attention on the growing disparity between rich and poor nations in the region which predicates continuing social and political unrest if it is not addressed institutionally... and not just as an expression of charity," he said.

"It is through the widespread adoption of democracy in Arab countries that we can best save

the Arab Nation from the pitfalls of armed conflict," said the King.

He said he was well aware that wounds created by the crisis might hinder Arab reconciliation but asked for all nations to make an honest effort.

He appealed to the international community to devote the same attention to the Palestinian problem that it had given to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Jordanians were happy that Kuwait had regained their independence after the Iraqi retreat but they also sympathised with "our Iraqi brothers nursing their wounds and pain," said the King.

"We shall stand with the Iraqi

people as they look forward to rebuilding their country and to healing their wounds."

Israel should learn a lesson from the way Palestinians under Israeli occupation showed joy every time Iraq fired missiles at the Jewish state, the King said.

"Such 'happiness' is no more than a reflection of deep-seated and profound sorrow, coupled with despair of attaining international justice and of having waited so long for salvation in freedom and the right to live with dignity," the King said.

See full text of the King's speech on page 5.

## Levy wants peace talks

TEL AVIV (R) — Foreign Minister David Levy told Israelis Friday not to fear peace negotiations with Palestinians, saying new groups were emerging who wanted to talk.

In the wake of the Gulf war, Mr. Levy said, Washington must encourage Arab states to meet Israel at the peace table. He forecast that Palestinians would be quick to join in.

In 1989, Mr. Levy opposed an Israeli initiative to let the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip elect representatives to the peace table. He said he now backed the idea, because the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was "on the decline."

The PLO was deprived of its official contacts with the United States in June after some of its guerrillas tried to attack Israeli beaches.

In further alienated sympathisers in Washington by backing Iraq in the Gulf war.

"Today the PLO is on the decline," Mr. Levy said in a radio interview. "It can get off the stage, the obstacle is gone, its positions are unacceptable."

But he added: "There are Palestinian elements developing (in the occupied territories) and they want to take part in the political process, accept the Israeli initiative."

"We must sit and talk with them on the Israeli initiative without fear."

Last week, in an apparent swipe at Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Mr. Levy said Israel must shun a "sit and do nothing" policy on making peace with Arabs.

Mr. Levy, 53, labelled a pragmatist by friends and an opportunist by foes, aspires to succeed Mr. Shamir, the 75-year-old leader of their rightist Likud party which has been accused by Washington of policies that block the road to peace.

Haaretz newspaper said Friday that senior Likud officials urgently wanted to call a party convention to keep Mr. Levy from committing the government to a peace compromise contrary to party policy.

Likud opposes giving up the occupied territories. Haaretz said the Likud officials favoured talks with Arab states before opening negotiations with Palestinians.

(Continued on page 5)

## Aziz accuses U.S. of violating ceasefire

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Baghdad accused the United States Friday of violating the ceasefire by reinforcing its troops inside Iraq and demanded their immediate withdrawal.

Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz made the charge in a statement carried by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) and broadcast on Baghdad Radio.

Mr. Aziz also accused U.S. troops of "provocative activities" and said these should stop.

"We have today learned that despite announcement of the ceasefire there is a military force on our western border made up of a number of tanks and infantrymen still in various areas on the road linking Al Nasiriyah and Samawa," Mr. Aziz said.

"They are making attacks incompatible with the ceasefire."

"(It the force) is carrying out provocative activities... and we learned of this only this morning because of difficulty in communications."

Allied commanders say several of their divisions swept from the Saudi Arabian border through

southern Iraq to the Euphrates River valley on which both towns are situated.

Nasiriyah is a major transportation hub on the Euphrates River about 110 kilometres west of the confluence with the Tigris and 250 kilometres south of

On Wednesday, the Iraqis said allied airborne units had launched an attack at the Ali air base west of Nasiriyah and met heavy resistance from civilians and the popular army militia.

Despite the announcement of the ceasefire declared by the United States and which we observed immediately, there is a U.S. and Western military force made up of a number of tanks and infantry still in various areas of the road linking Al Nasiriyah with Al Samawa (to the west) and up to a point on the road south of Al Nasiriyah," Mr. Aziz said.

"The aggressive forces had barbarily deployed in these areas during the aggression a show of muscle by dropping troops from

the air," Mr. Aziz said.

Allied commanders say several of their divisions swept from the Saudi Arabian border through

production and fire control officials were speaking at the Al Ahmad oil complex. Huge columns of fire and smoke rose from all sides.

The officials said Iraq's Republican Guards planted explosives on every wellhead in the country immediately after they invaded on Aug. 2.

But they did not connect detonators and fuses until much later. Large-scale destruction of oil wells began only last week, the officials said.

"This could have been prevented," Mr. Yaseen said.

"It is a great shame the allies could not have prevented our wells from being exploded... I cried. The allies had a great opportunity to prevent this. The oil wells were not equipped with detonators for several months."

Mr. Yaseen stressed he was not criticising allied tactics, saying there may have been other considerations in the conduct of the war.

Allied bombing had set on fire as many as 34 oil wells, the KOC

Mr. Yaseen and other KOC

(Continued on page 5)

## All Kuwait oil wells put out of action by 'Iraqis or allies'

KUWAIT CITY (R) — All Kuwait's 950 producing oil wells have been set ablaze or otherwise damaged by Iraqi sabotage or allied bombing, according to initial surveys by the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC).

"Our provisional assessment is that they have damaged every producing well," KOC executive Musab Al Yaseen said in an interview.

"Our feeling from checks our personnel have done so far is that all the wells have been ex- ploded."

Wells that had not caught fire when blasted by Iraqi explosives had been badly damaged and were spouting crude oil. Some wells had been destroyed by allied bombing, he said, but the vast majority had been blown up, by Iraqi forces.

Mr. Yaseen and other KOC executives said the country had about 16 days supply of oil left in storage tanks for domestic consumption only.

They declined to say when they expected Kuwait to be able to resume oil production or exports.

Mr. Yaseen and other KOC

(Continued on page 5)

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(Continued on page 5)

## Iraq says allied paratroopers wiped out

## Iran to send food to Iraq

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran is prepared to send food for the people of Iraq, its foe in the 1980-88 war, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Friday.

The first shipment will include powdered milk, baby food, flour, cooking oil and fruit, IRNA said.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said U.N. Security General Javier Perez de Cuello was informed of Iran's decision.

It said the food would be shipped across the border with help from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

In a separate dispatch, IRNA said that 56 Iranians captured in the Iran-Iraq war were freed by Baghdad and arrived home Thursday.

It added that Tehran would repatriate a similar number of Iraqis.

The Iranians came home as more than 100,000 Iraqi and at least 13 allied prisoners await repatriation.

Iraq was among the few countries which dispatched food and medicine to Iraq, since U.N. sanctions were imposed on Baghdad following its invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2.

The Iranians maintained they were not violating the embargo, which permitted "humanitarian shipments."

More than 70,000 prisoners on both sides were repatriated in a month-long swap that was abruptly halted by Baghdad in September.

The Iranians accused Iraq of withholding thousands of POWs, but Baghdad said all had been repatriated.

The Red Cross, which coordinates the exchange, upholds Iraq's claim, but says it has no estimate of the number of Iraqis still held by Iraq.

Iraq said the Muslim world will not allow Western troops to stay in southern Iraq.

"American and the other Western states now occupying Iraq must realize that they will not be able to stay in this country," Iranian radio's international service said.

"The Iraqi people are part of the Islamic Nation, and the Islamic World will not allow America to continue its occupation of Iraq in this manner," the radio added.

## Extent of devastation still unknown in Iraq

By John Rice  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — War in the Gulf has left Iraq a deeply wounded nation, maiming its dead and facing years of civilian reconstruction and austerity.

Nobody knows yet the full scope of the devastation caused by the five weeks of air bombardment and four pulverizing days of war on the ground.

But allied war claims indicate that thousands of Iraqi soldiers may have died. Government and medical officials in Baghdad said even before the allied ground offensive began that as many as 20,000 Iraqi civilians had been killed in the air raids that began Jan. 17.

Life for the survivors among Iraq's 17 million people will be hard in the months ahead amid the devastation caused by the allied air offensive.

Oil refineries, power plants, petrochemical complexes and industrial sites have been destroyed along with militarily strategic targets. Residential areas were also hit by allied bombs and missiles.

The allied attacks destroyed dozens of key bridges and cranes.

## War's end brings hope to wife of jailed Palestinian

By Larry Thorson  
The Associated Press

### OCCUPIED JERUSALEM —

The wife of a leading Palestinian activist jailed by Israel for allegedly spying for Iraq hopes the end of the Gulf war may mean freedom for her husband.

Sari Nusseibeh's imprisonment Jan. 29 drew protests from the United States, Britain, France and Amnesty International, because Israeli authorities jailed him without trial.

The 42-year-old philosophy professor, a key promoter of Palestinian independence, was accused of passing information to the Iraqis about their missile attacks against Israel. But Israel did not put him on trial, instead using what is known as administrative detention to jail him on the basis of undisclosed evidence.

His British-born wife, Lucy, said in an interview Thursday the judge who reviewed the evidence had cut the defense ministry's request for six months' detention to three months because the case was weak.

The judge said it was preventive (detention) rather than punitive, and sometimes war changes the whole security situation," she said.

Her husband should be released "if it's clear the war is really finished," she said. "According to what the judge said, he should be released immediately."

If Mr. Nusseibeh is freed, he will find the Israeli-Palestinians divide deeper than ever.

Palestinians lost the good will of Israeli doves by cheering Iraqi missile attacks on Tel Aviv. They need an articulate spokesman like Mr. Nusseibeh, with his Oxford degree and a philosophy doctorate from Harvard University, now more than ever.

Mrs. Nusseibeh met her husband while he was an undergraduate at Oxford. They have lived in Jerusalem since 1978, when he finished his doctorate at Harvard and returned to teach at Bar Ilai University in the West Bank.

Mrs. Nusseibeh was asked how she keeps her spirits up, despite the dangers faced by her husband.

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## Civil defence chief praises public support, regrets Iraq damages

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan marked International Civil Defence Day Friday with a sad reflection on the great devastation in Iraq and the sufferings inflicted on the civilian population there as a result of the Gulf conflict. Said Civil Defence Department (CDD) Director Maj. Gen. Aaff Al Ghoul.

The International Civil Defence Day prompted the CDD to express deep appreciation to members of the public for their continued support for civil defence work and cooperation with the department in providing emergency and other essential aid to the victims of wars and natural disasters, Ghoul said in a statement on the anniversary.

Being a member of the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO), Jordan shares with other world member states the view about the need for promoting activities designed to develop guidance, training and organisation in civil defence work at all levels, Ghoul noted.

He said that the CDD would continue to count on the help of volunteers from the public and was ready to offer training to all citizens and organisations so that they can contribute to CDD work in times of need.

Enhancing the CDD's capabilities means offering the public a stronger tool with which to defend its various installations and

property and safeguard human life, said Al Ghoul in his statement.

Ghoul said that the Jordanians were pained to see speedy resolution taken to cause devastation, while the United Nations failed to take practical steps to ensure security and happiness for people around the world by helping to establish peace everywhere.

The CDD, Ghoul added, did not shoulder along the task of providing protection and emergency aid in times of need because this was the responsibility of the whole population.

He said that for this reason the CDD would continue to strive to serve as a catalyst for thwarting danger that could threaten public security and property and would continue to help spread awareness among members of the public in this regard.

The International Civil Defence Organisation, which is based in Geneva, aims to intensify and coordinate on a worldwide scale the development and improvement of organisation means and techniques for preventing and reducing the consequences of natural disasters in peacetime, or of the use of weapons in times of conflict.

Jordan and other Arab states are members of the International Civil Defence Organisation which was founded in 1931.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma inquires from officials in Qawieirah about the charitable organisations in the area (Petra photo)

## Princess Basma visits southern charitable societies and centres

KUWAIRAH (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, the chairwoman of the Board of Trustees of Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAJSWF)

programmes and plans in cooperation with the local councils and committees in the district.

Princess Basma said her visit was aimed at getting first-hand information of the social services available and required for people in these areas in a bid to develop such services and prepare new programmes and formulas for future cooperation among the various voluntary organisations.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Princess

Basma said she felt that people were full of enthusiasm for participating in all local community development programmes.

She pointed out that the QAJSWF was planning a number of programmes aimed at improving the welfare of women and children through creating income generating projects by training women in skills and crafts capable of winning them more income.

Princess Basma also visited a number of kindergartens in the district.

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Deputies return from Turkey

AMMAN (Petra) — A parliamentary delegation returned to Amman Thursday following a visit to Turkey where its members held meetings with Turkish parliamentarians. Discussions during the meetings focused on the Gulf crisis, according to Dr. Ishaq Al Farhan who led the group. He was accompanied by Ali Al Faqir, Fuad Khalafat and Fayed Shawabkeh.

#### Envoy to Luxembourg presents credentials

BRUSSELS (Petra) — Jordan's ambassador to Belgium has presented his credentials to the Duke of Luxembourg as non-resident ambassador of Jordan in that country. In presenting the credentials, the ambassador, Sataan Al Hassan expressed Jordan's desire to bolster ties with European countries and explained the difficulties the Kingdom was facing as a consequence of the Gulf crisis. Hassan also conveyed to the leaders of Luxembourg His Majesty King Hussein's endeavours to bring about peace in the Middle East.

#### Saraireh inspects oil tanker

AQABA (Petra) — Transport and Telecommunication Minister Jamal Al Saraireh Friday inspected the Jordanian oil tanker 'Azraq', which docked in Aqaba two days ago. The tanker was loaded with 97,000 tonnes of crude oil from the Yemeni port of Ras Issa. The government and the National Shipping Lines (NSL) bought this tanker early last month for \$7.6 million to help partly offset the shortage of oil following the bombing of Jordanian tankers carrying petrol from Iraq to Jordan. Director of the NSL's operations department, Mustafa Massad, said this was the first Jordanian experiment in the area of importing oil by ships. Massad added that the Yemeni authorities have provided the necessary facilities to speed up the loading of the tanker. He pointed out that the tanker's captain and crew were all Jordanian and that the tanker could serve as a floating oil reservoir in case there is a need for it in the future.

#### Gulf Peace Team expresses sorrow

AMMAN (J.T.) — From Friday onwards, the Gulf Peace Team will be holding a daily silent vigil outside the United Nations office in Amman, from 12:00 to 12:30 p.m. Five members of the team are also beginning a water-only fast. This vigil and fast are undertaken in sorrowful remembrance of the tragedy of the Gulf war, and in demand of immediate action by the world community to achieve a just and peaceful solution to all outstanding problems of international relations and human rights in the region.

#### Ramadan, astronomically, starts March 17

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary of the Jordanian Astronomy Amateur Society Imad Muajahid said Friday the month of Ramadan will start on March 17. According to astronomical calculations the crescent of the month can be seen after 10:41 p.m. on Jan. 16, making March 17 the first day of the holy month, he said.

#### Abu Taleb thanks Jordan National Bank

AMMAN (Petra) — Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb Wednesday sent a letter of thanks and appreciation to the Jordan National Bank Co. board of directors for extending a JD 20,000 donation to the People's Army.

#### Sqour inspects nurseries

KARAK (Petra) — Director of Social Development in Karak Governorate Saleh Sqour Thursday inspected the various nurseries in the governorate and was briefed on the services they offer to children in the governorate. At a meeting with heads of these nurseries, Sqour stressed the importance of providing financial and educational resources to ensure the psychological, mental and physical development of children and upgrading the performance of nursery staff in the fields of health, supervision, and preparation of programmes drawn up for children. Sqour noted that the nurseries were originally set up to provide protection and care for pre-school children, because this stage constitutes the basis for shaping the child's behaviour, values, trends and enhancing genuine belonging. There are eight nurseries in Karak governorate which were founded by both the private and public sectors.

#### Sharari sends memo to PM

AMMAN (Petra) — Lower House of Parliament member Hisham Sharari Thursday sent a memorandum to Prime Minister Muder Badran, calling on the government to conduct a feasibility study for converting Shobak Community College into a university college, attached to Muta University. He sent another memorandum to Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Massadeh, calling on him to upgrade the Wadi Mousa and Shobak sub-districts to districts, because all requirements and conditions are met in these sub-districts.

### Oil wells

(Continued from page 1)

executives said.

The allies had also caused varying degrees of damage, from minor to total loss, to as many as 13 of 18 important oil gathering facilities around the country, they said.

In northern Kuwait near Iraq the allies had destroyed collection stations number 17, 18 and 16, "possibly due to military objectives," said Mr. Yaseen, KOC general superintendent for oil reserves.

He said he could not understand some damage to other oil installations caused by allied bombing.

"I have seen it with my naked eyes... air attacks on Kuwaiti gathering centres with no military stations, no military equipment. This is a puzzle we have tried to solve," he said.

KOC industrial superintendent Bader Al Khashiti said repairs to tank farms and efforts to put out the wellhead fires could not start before Iraqi mines and booby traps had been cleared.

He could not say how long that would take but hoped it would be done soon.

"We are waiting for explosives experts to enter the area... there

are unexploded bombs, booby traps, everything," he said.

All Al Qabidi, KOC general superintendent of budget and costs, said getting oil and gas supplies for domestic consumption has the top priority.

"Our prime objective is getting the country back on its feet... as fast as possible."

Kuwait produced almost two million barrels a day before the Iraqi invasion.

Asked when he expected Kuwait to resume exports Mr. Yaseen declined to be specific but added: "We don't want to see Kuwait, which has been a major oil exporter, become a major oil importer."

### Aziz

(Continued from page 1)

helicopters. But they are now present in larger numbers than before the ceasefire," Mr. Aziz said.

"Iraq considers this presence a violation of the ceasefire. This American force should leave our land immediately and stop all provocative activities."

"This behaviour on the part of America demonstrates ill-intention and non-adherence to pledges," Mr. Aziz added.

He also accused American pilots of continuing to overfly Iraqi airspace, including Friday

morning.

A senior British official said

Friday that ceasefire talks be-

tween Iraqi and coalition military

leaders were expected to take

place on Saturday.

The talks would be held at a "military installation" somewhere in Iraq, he said, without giving details.

U.S. soldiers killed six Iraqi soldiers and wounded six in a shootout at a checkpoint in southern Iraq Friday, military spokesman said.

The troops stopped two buses full of Iraqi soldiers at 2 a.m. (2300 GMT Thursday). While they were questioning those in the first bus, Iraqis in the second opened fire, U.S. spokesman Brigadier General Richard Neal told a briefing.

One bus was destroyed and the U.S. troops, from the 24th armoured division, took 90 Iraqi prisoners-of-war, Gen. Neal said. No Americans were hurt, he said.

The Iraqi death toll was given by Saudi spokesman Colonel Ahmad Al Robayan.

Gen. Neal said U.S. troops were on the alert for any violations of the informal ceasefire in force since Thursday morning.

"Our forces are in defensive positions and are prepared to transition to offensive combat immediately should the need arise," he said.

## APU asks U.N. to implement resolutions on Palestine, protect workers in Kuwait

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 21st meeting of the Arab Parliamentarian Union (APU) which was concluded in Algiers has appealed to the United Nations Organisation to provide protection for Palestinians and Jordanians working and living in Kuwait in the wake of the Iraqi withdrawal, and said that Arab governments bear serious responsibility in this matter.

After two days of meetings.

The participants called on the world organisation to convene an international conference as soon as possible in order to implement Security Council resolutions and decided to set up a special committee to deal with the question of Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine.

A final statement issued at the end of the meetings in which Jordan and other Arab countries participated through parliamentary teams, urged the United Nations to embark on practical steps to ensure the settlement of the U.N. Security Council resolutions on Palestine.

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A final statement issued at

## Jordan Times

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## A new tomorrow!

NOW THAT the guns in the Gulf have fallen silent and the ceasefire seems to be taking hold, attention is now directed to post-war political settlements for the problems of the entire Gulf and Middle East region. Over and above the terms of the ceasefire that the antagonists will have agreed on, there is a broad spectrum of issues and conflicts in this area that remain unresolved and await immediate attention. The conclusion of the war has not settled these pressing issues and in more than one way left many questions totally unanswered. The most immediate differences that require resolution is of course the Iraqi-Kuwaiti outstanding issues whose settlement U.N. Security Council resolution 660 called for. It will be recalled that operative paragraph 3 of that resolution called on Kuwait and Iraq to enter into immediate negotiations concurrently with the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. Iraq has been steadily called upon by the allied powers to respect and implement all the council's resolutions and there is no better place to begin such a commitment than here. A good test of the sincerity of the belligerent countries about the need to observe and implement all Security Council resolutions on the Gulf is the very conflicts that precipitated the war. Stability and security in the Gulf would necessarily envisage good neighbourly relations between all the countries of that region especially between Iraq and Kuwait. Now that Iraq has renounced any future designs or claims on Kuwait, the emirate is duty bound to reciprocate this historic move by an equally generous policy decision towards its neighbour that would ensure lasting harmonious and brotherly relations between them. All efforts must now be exerted to put the past behind us as soon as possible. The Gulf war was a terrible tragedy that should never have occurred. Many mistakes were committed by more than one party, and the end result was a catastrophic bloodletting and destruction that the countries of the region could ill afford. Nevertheless, what happened has happened, and we need more than ever at this stage is to work hard at reconstruction damage. Even more important than material reconstruction is the political, economic and psychological repair between not only the warring governments but also between their respective peoples. After all they are first and foremost one people and will remain so no matter what happened between them through the intervention of third parties and foreign forces. It is perhaps premature to think in terms of another Arab summit for establishing new foundations for future Arab cooperation and coordination but the Arab countries must most certainly begin to think along these lines as soon as possible.



## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AI RA'AT ARABIC daily Friday called for the re-construction of bridges of understanding among Arab states, and said that King Hussein's call for unity of ranks within the Arab World is essential for a bright Arab future. The paper said that King Hussein's call channelled through Arab ambassadors to Jordan last Friday should be given priority, and inter-Arab cooperation is a must at this juncture in Arab history. The Arabs ought to open a new chapter in their relations and should by no means allow others to decide their future for them, said the paper. Solidarity is now number one priority in future common action among Arab countries because without solidarity, disunity and dismemberment of the Arab World can only lead to further catastrophes, the paper added. The paper called for healing of wounds caused by Gulf crisis, and said that only through Arab efforts can the Arab World become healthy again and again capable of confronting the common challenges. The paper said that Jordan was looking forward to a brighter Arab future in which solidarity and unity among Arab ranks can play the key role in the struggle for the establishment of a lasting peace. The paper said that the Arabs can adapt themselves to the new world order through united ranks; and can best achieve their objectives through stronger determination and self-confidence.

A columnist in Al Ra'at daily says that a military success cannot be interpreted as a political victory for any side in the Gulf war; and the Iraqi withdrawal of forces from Kuwait should not be considered as a defeat, since the self-confident Iraq leadership can now transform this move into a political victory. Fahd Fanek reminds his readers of the Vietnam war in which the Americans dropped thousands of tonnes of explosives on the Vietnamese people, killing hundreds of thousands of them, only to lose the battle politically and militarily. The writer says that Vietnam had fought for 10 whole years in order to attain liberation, and had faced all odds in order to deal defeat to the American invaders. Iraq's people and armed forces withstood the onslaught of a superpower, and the weapons of the NATO alliance working hand in hand with the Israeli enemy at a time when it had counted on help from Arab regimes which never came, says Fanek. But it must be understood that the Iraqis cannot hold out indefinitely after losing so much, and after realising that everyone else had failed them.

## View from Amman

# Shattered myths

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

ONE of the most important, and perhaps terrible lessons that the world should learn from the 1990-91 Gulf crisis is that one should only depend on oneself and on oneself alone. The crisis shattered many myths, some on the international and others on the regional level. The most sobering and telling are those exploded myths on the regional level: the myth of Arab and the myth of Islamic brotherhood and solidarity. When the chips were down, Iraq was left alone to grapple with forces way beyond its means not only militarily but politically and otherwise as well. For exactly 210 days between Aug. 1, 1990 and Feb. 28, 1991 when finally the ceasefire was arranged, Iraq was left in a death struggle all alone. Neither Arab nor Islamic sentiment nor neighborliness moved anyone: no nation with very few exceptions, notably Jordan, was willing to even utter a word. Arab and Islamic silence was both roaring and deathly.

Iraq should have withdrawn from Kuwait immediately after it invaded it. We in Jordan kept hammering on this point while also pleading that there were other ways to achieve this withdrawal without destroying Iraq. Before anyone else, we became aware of the trap that Iraq was being led into and we warned: We warned Arabs and Muslims on both sides of the western divide. As if hypnotised, neither we nor anyone else were able to stop moving in the direction of the trap. The plan was too clever, too comprehensive and so well laid out, its execution was not only bold but almost barbaric in its surgical operation: certainly without anaesthesia and definitely without mercy.

My Circassian friend warned, "never depend on your friend when you wish to fight with the bear." How true. For, when the struggle began, the ranks of the onlookers, cheerleaders and bookies swelled, while those who earlier gave encouragement

became strangely silent. Iraq, a country about the size of the state of California and with a population of about 16.7 million people stood alone against the thirty countries of the so-called alliance with a population totalling about 950 million, militarily other nations, in addition to those in the alliance contributed, one way or another, to the attack against Iraq. The United States, Britain and France, all members of the United Nations Security Council were in on the kill while the Soviet Union and China suddenly became law abiding and mushroomed into full-fledged democracies fighting for the United Nations charter and the application of international law. Never in the history of man have stranger bedfellows come together. And in the meanwhile Shamir, happy with the results in smiling.

And why not? For Shanir got someone else to do his "smiling" for him while still someone else who is supposed to be on the other side was paying for it. Truly the Lord works in mysterious ways.

The age of the new international disorder is upon us brought about by the western culture of violence whose coin and currency is the use of force. Colonialism, indeed the arrogant imperial mentality has not left the world: the western world. What happened since the end of the Second World War is not the liberation of the "wretched masses" of humanity as Franz Fanon put it, but the maintenance of colonialism by other means. In the jargon of Third World intelligentsia, the phenomenon is referred to as Neo-Colonialism. What it really means, for those in the "know", is that the pink faces simply transferred their soldiers from bases in the area to ships and troop carriers in the seas around it, or simply to bases in their home countries always ready

to strike at us at the least provocation.

If the west is, or appears now, a friend to some of us, it is at best a very dangerous one, and it is certainly lethal. This is the reality of the world in which we live now and it seems also the shape of the world to come. Who is next on the hit list? Who in the area looks like he stands on his feet?

That is the shape of the world to come: the so-called new world order which is really nothing but the old order made uglier. The mask has dropped and a new energy has been released on the world. We have to live with it; we have to learn to cope with it, to contain it and tame and humanise it if possible. For the Zionised West may be efficient technologically and in the industry of death, but still in need of taming that wild and violent strain in it; that return to the savage nature revealed at the least provocation. And we must brace ourselves as the job may take generations. Since the advent of the Protestant movement, and its latter-day wedding to the capitalist and the industrial revolutions, the Zionist have succeeded in awakening the most primitive and aggressive traits in the human nature of the west. That is the true meaning of converting western civilisation to the so-called Judeo-Christian civilisation. We have a hard and difficult task ahead of us and we must go about it methodically and with patience. Like an amoral mischievous child, his spirit inflated with hatred by Zionism, the west is playing with over-sized toys of mass destruction: our destruction. Somehow we must counter that call to the wild in the western heart and believe in the possibility of teaching it that there are limits to the use of force. The west knows how to live in war and our challenge will be how to teach it to live with peace.

## Arabs to tell Baker it's time to tackle Arab-Israel conflict

By Patrick Worsnip  
Reuter

CAIRO — Arab countries will tell U.S. Secretary of State James Baker next week that after the end of the Gulf war it is high time to tackle the Arab-Israeli conflict, diplomats say.

But the message during Baker's Middle East tour may be more rhetorical than real.

Some Arab governments are quietly resigned to little progress for some time on a problem which has defied peace efforts for so long, the diplomats said.

The Arab allies — the Gulf states, Egypt and Syria — will be anxious to cash in both politically and literally on their risky involvement in the war, which stopped on Thursday morning Iraqi troops withdrew from Kuwait.

"To postpone the (Palestinian)

issue would be to render it explosive, to put it off after dealing so effectively with the Gulf crisis, would be an unforgivable shame," said Ashraf Ghorbal, a former Egyptian ambassador to

Washington. U.S. President George Bush, claiming victory in the war, said Baker would tour the region to "meet the challenge of securing the peace." His itinerary was not immediately announced.

Many diplomats believe Arab states will push at the United Nations for fresh action on Israel's occupation of Arab lands — no less illegal, in their view, than Iraq's seizure of Kuwait and requiring just as tough a response from the Security Council.

Two long-standing Security Council resolutions, 342 and 338, demand Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories.

The allies "have been very efficient in implementing Security Council resolutions (against Iraq), so we have to remind the world that these two resolutions have been adopted long ago, and we look and wait to see how they are going to be implemented" — Information Minister Ibrahim Izzedine said.

Baker himself appeared to head off great expectations from his trip when he said: "You are not going to make progress on Arab-Israeli peace unless the parties themselves really want to make progress."

Diplomatic analysts believe any new peace drive is likely to

the prospects for quick movement. They believe the Gulf war has set back a solution even further.

The scepticism is shared in western capitals.

bog down once again on the seemingly irreconcilable positions of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

They said Israel is bound to

argue, especially if Saddam Hus-

ter." A Cairo-based diplomat said. The Syrian government, despite backing the alliance, is still seen in Washington as basically anti-western, Arab analysts said.

Alternative approaches include peace negotiations between Israel and its neighbours Syria and Jordan, and talks with non-PLO Palestinians — almost non-existent — about autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Both ideas have been touted for years without result.

"It may be that the Americans can make enough of an effort to be seen to be doing about as much as they possibly could. But the Arab in the street won't understand that," one diplomat said.

•

Diplomats said that in the present climate, Egypt, which has made its own peace with Israel and whose 35,000-man contingent in the multinational force fought solidly against Iraq, was likely to play a pivotal role in future peace efforts.

"It's just too big and it's done too well to be a secondary play-

## Will France have independent policy after end of war?

By Francois Raithberg  
Reuter

PARIS — France, a close U.S. ally in the Gulf war, will reassess its independence and press Washington for a comprehensive Middle East settlement now that the fighting is over, officials say.

Even before Thursday's ceasefire was announced, President Francois Mitterrand said that cracks papered over during the war were likely to resurface.

"In the debate for peace... we shall propose the objectives that we think fairest, and no-one is going to give us orders," he said this week.

Before the war, Mitterrand's former spokesman, said the United Nations should be the forum for the search for peace.

The Mitterrand plan, which stressed that an urgent solution to the Palestinian problem was indispensable, must absolutely be placed on the table again," he said.

France Heisbourg, director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, said: "France, like other European countries, will want to put the Palestinian problem top of the agenda. This is an area of possible differences."

Basking in U.S. praise for the French role in helping U.S. forces outflank Iraqi defences, Mitterrand is expected to try to convince President George Bush that only an international conference can bring a lasting Middle East peace.

France has long called for such a gathering. The United States has been cool to the idea, although Bush said the end of the war could open the way to a potentially historic peace.

Within hours of the ceasefire, Foreign Minister Roland Dumas left for talks in Washington and politicians urged Mitterrand to

take bold steps to solve Middle East problems.

"France, the last country to put forward peace proposals before the war, must now be the first to call for a balanced peace," Michel Vauzelle, president of the national assembly's foreign affairs commission, said.

Conservative former Prime Minister Jacques Chirac said France's historical links with the Middle East — Syria and Lebanon were under French mandate between the two world wars — singled it out for a prominent role in the region.

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## 28 nations line up to cash in

By Ruth Sims  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Each of the countries that took part in fighting Iraq, along with some important ones that sat out the Gulf war, is jockeying for position on the crowded post-war playing field.

What they're seeking reflects their disparate interests.

Saudi Arabia wants "to be left alone to enjoy their wealth and peace," said Michael Mandelbaum of the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

Mitterrand said in an interview with the Dutch magazine Elsevier on Thursday that apart from the Gulf war, the allies from the Middle East — Syria and Lebanon — were under French mandate between the two world wars, controls on arms sales, regional disarmament, redistribution of resources and post-war reconstruction.

Vauzelle proposed a conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean looking at the economic problems of Arab states in what he called "the Euro-Mediterranean area."

With the Soviet, France was among Iraq's main arms suppliers, and Vauzelle said the U.N. had to find a way to exclude arms sales from free world trade.

"They feel their Arab nationalist credentials were tarnished by their siding with the United States. Now they want to prove to their critics that the alliance can benefit the Palestinians."

Syria's President Hafez Assad initially leaped aboard the allied bandwagon to replace his crumbling alliance with the Soviet Union. Assad, a bitter foe of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, wants him removed from power. Assad also is seeking improved ties with the West, which has shunned him as a sponsor of Palestinian terrorism, and financial aid from Saudi Arabia.

He has already benefited. The United States looked the other way last fall when Syria effectively took control of large chunks of Lebanon, said Mandelbaum.

In Turkey, President Turgut Ozal wants to cash in on his support for the coalition, which he undertook in defiance of his top aides and public sentiment. He'd like the European Economic Community to consider Turkey for membership, and he wants increased financial aid from the United States.

Some analysts believe Gorbachev, under pressure from domestic conservatives and military hardliners, wants to save Saddam Hussein so the Kremlin can resume its role as Iraq's main arms supplier and act as a power broker in the region.

Outside the coalition are some distinct winners and losers.

Palestinians, having sided wholeheartedly with Saddam for his championship of their cause, lost the financial support of the Gulf states and their hard-won political backing from Washington.

Iran, without effort, saw its biggest rival greatly weakened.

Its neutrality in the conflict also eased its international isolation, led to warmer ties with France and the Soviet Union, and even raised the possibility of a dialogue with the United States.

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Iran wants the United States to leave the region.

Israelis worry about the price they might have to pay: U.S. and allied pressure to give up occupied territory to make room for a Palestinian state and to achieve peace with Syria.



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## PLO says smashing Iraqi economy was crime against humanity

SYDNEY (R) — The smashing of Iraq's economic infrastructure during the Gulf war was a crime against humanity for which the United States should pay reparations, a Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official said Friday.

"The United States and Britain's destruction of the economic, historic and civilian infrastructure of Iraq is a crime against humanity, nothing short of the barbaric Mongol invasion and sacking of Iraq in the 12th century," Ali Kazak, the PLO's representative in Australia, told reporters.

"The United States must now pay reparations and assist in the rebuilding of what its destructive war machine has destroyed," he said.

"Similarly, there was no reason or excuse for Iraq's destruction of the economic infrastructure of Kuwait, the burning of its oil wells, refineries and public buildings," he said. "It is an Arab loss which also must be condemned."

Mr. Kazak said the West had tried to distort the PLO position during the crisis, misrepresenting PLO leader Yasser Arafat as a supporter of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

"From the outset of the Gulf crisis, President Arafat, among other Arab leaders, worked

tirelessly for a peaceful Arab solution which would secure an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait," Mr. Kazak said.

"History will show how the U.S. sabotaged all Arab attempts for a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis."

Mr. Kazak said the United States now had no choice but to address the utmost urgency of the Palestinian question in all its aspects if it was to have any credibility left in the Arab and Muslim World.

"People over there (in the Middle East) are extremely angry and are going to be very frustrated if there is no solution to the problems of the area," he said.

He said the war, far from being a setback for the Palestinian cause, had several beneficial effects.

"Certainly it has highlighted the Palestine question more," he said.

"It has highlighted to the

Israelis that there is no security for them while maintaining their occupation of Arab territories and refusing and rejecting to coexist with the Palestinians.

"So therefore I'm sure there are lots of Israelis now starting to think again and they realise that... they cannot close their eyes and wish the Palestinian nation would disappear."

## Pakistani premier says his position vindicated

ISLAMABAD (R) — Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said Friday the outcome of the Gulf war vindicated his stand against Iraq, which brought him widespread criticism in Pakistan.

"Certainly we feel vindicated and I think that our policy was based on principle. It was a just and correct policy and we have no regrets," he told an airport news conference on his return from a four-day visit to China.

Pakistan sent 11,000 soldiers to Saudi Arabia after several weeks of hesitation and in spite of a wave of popular anger against the U.S.-led forces.

Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg joined the anti-American movement in a fiery speech at the end of January that created a major row in the government, political sources said.

Pakistan would like to join in the reconstruction of Kuwait but was in no hurry to join the headlong rush of the West to secure the spoils of victory, Mr. Sharif said.

Pakistan has made clear it

wants to be part of the post-war regional security arrangement in the Gulf. Mr. Sharif said nothing had been agreed with the Saudi and Kuwaiti governments.

Since Washington cut off aid to Pakistan in October because of worries about its nuclear programme, China has increasingly been seen as Islamabad's most reliable non-Islamic ally.

Mr. Sharif said his visit had been very successful with both sides agreeing to step up defence and economic cooperation.

China had agreed to transfer defence technology, he said, but declined to say whether it had offered missile technology. China, which is keen to boost its arms sales, already provides tanks and aircraft and is helping Pakistan to develop its own main battle tank.

Before leaving Beijing, Information Adviser Sheikh Rashid Ahmad told reporters Pakistan hoped for more joint ventures and the transfer of defence technology.

## Pro-Iraq and pro-Kuwait demonstrators clash in Tyre

TYRE, Lebanon (AP) — Pro-and anti-Iraq demonstrators hurled stones and tomatoes at each other in a 90-minute clash in South Lebanon Friday. Police said at least three people were slightly injured. Police said the clash broke out early in the day in the village of Shakra, 10 kilometers southeast of the port city of Tyre. The clash broke out when about 40 pro-Iraq youths intercepted about 300 women, children and men who marched across the streets of Shakra to celebrate Kuwait's liberation from Iraqi occupation, the spokesman said. He said the pro-Kuwait demonstrators were forced to leave the country after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion. About 50,000 Lebanese expatriates lived in Kuwait before the Iraqi invasion. The spokesman said the pro-Kuwait demonstrators chanted "Long live Sheikh Jaber Al Sabah, long live Kuwait." President Elias Hrawi cabled his congratulations to Sheikh Jaber on Kuwait's liberation "and the return of the legitimate authority to the sisterly nation," the presidential press office said.

### Levy

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Levy said the United States, whose Gulf war allies included key Arab countries like Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia, was "now" better placed than ever before to influence them to negotiate with Israel without preconditions.

And he believed that once even a few Arab countries opened direct negotiations with Israel, "one thing must be understood — the Palestinians will not stand at the end of the queue."

### Resolution

(Continued from page 1)

Some reservists will have to stay longer because they have special skills needed to support the withdrawal, he said.

President Bush ordered a ceasefire from 0500 GMT on Thursday after a 100-hour land, sea and air offensive routed Iraqi troops and Iraq accepted all 12 resolutions on Kuwait adopted by the United Nations Security Council.

Iraq ordered compliance with the ceasefire, which was holding Friday despite a few skirmishes. The allies said that because of a communications breakdown some Iraqi troops did not know they were supposed to stop shooting.

Thousands of Iraqi soldiers were bypassed by the rapid allied advance and it may take a week

before they all come out of their defences.

Mr. Bush said he was pleased by the quick Iraqi response to his 48-hour deadline for agreement on a meeting to coordinate an exchange of war prisoners, U.S. and Kuwaiti detainees and other military aspects ahead of a formal end to the war.

The allies have also demanded that the Iraqis identify for them the location of all mines planted on land and at sea, free all detainees, return the remains of war dead and end missile attacks on Israel and Saudi Arabia.

The United States has no plan ready yet for withdrawing its nearly 54,000 forces from the Gulf, but some will be recalled "pretty soon," senior Pentagon officials said.

For weeks the United Nations has made contingency plans for peacekeeping operations in the Gulf, considering a force of anywhere from a few hundred to about 5,000 on Iraq's border with Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

The agenda for the talks might include the positioning of troops, rules of safe passage for travellers, information on land and sea mines, care for the sick and wounded and returning the remains of the dead.

Political issues, such as the return of prisoners of war, Iraqi war reparations to Kuwait and the establishment of a military buffer zone in southern Iraq, belong to diplomats.

Wrangling over the terms of peace, or the absence of war, can be long and rocky.

Thousands of Iraqi soldiers were bypassed by the rapid allied advance and it may take a week

# King Hussein addresses Nation 'Let us place our trust in God and turn over new page'

The following is His Majesty King Hussein's address to the nation Friday:

In the name of God the Compassionate the Merciful

Brother Citizens, Brother Arabs, in all parts of the Arab World, Brother Muslims, in all parts of the world,

I send you greetings that spring from a pure Arab heart and conscience that believes in the will of God. On this historic moment I shall pause with you at two landmarks of Jordan's progress and that of the greater Arab Nation.

The first is the thirty fifth anniversary of the Arabisation of the command of our Arab Army, so that it may always remain a source of strength for our nation.

Unemployment soared to an unprecedented level. Our tankers were hit as they came from Iraq loaded with oil, without which,

not only the wheels of the economy would grind to a halt, but so would our ability to provide drinking water, which requires energy to pump it from its various sources.

Nevertheless, we did

what we could to stay prepared to defend our country at all levels:

We mobilised the armed forces, called up our reserves, equipped the people's army, and provided basic food supplies for the country.

We did not, however bear a grudge towards anyone, nor did we

place the blame on any. We

realised that we would pay dearly for standing on principle, and

maintaining our freedom of

choice within a national context,

and because of our geographical location.

Gloating and apportioning

blame are not Arab traits, nor are

they compatible with their spiritual

values because they lead to

enmity, hatred, and alienation.

On the other hand, forgiveness

and burying the past lead to

healing the wounds and closing

the ranks of the nation once

again.

Let us place our trust in God

and turn over a new leaf. Let

everyone make an honest resolution

to work for reconciliation and

harmony, and to shun

doubts, mistrust, and all causes

of strife. Let us establish an inter-

Arab relationship based on the

fear of God, mutual trust,

and faithfulness to the aspirations

of our nation and its future genera-

tions to live in freedom, peace,

security, and stability, so they can

resume the quest for progress

and fortitude, within its national

character and Islamic values.

return to their homes and the restoration of their independence. We share their happiness.

By contrast, our Iraqi brothers nurse their wounds and pain. We sympathise with them all, people and army, Arabs and Kurds, Sunnis and Shi'ites, in every city, village, and bedouin camp. We all bear a responsibility towards Iraq, its heritage and history. We shall stand by the Iraqi people as they look forward to rebuilding their country and to healing their wounds.

To all our brethren in Iraq we pledge that we shall neither forget them, nor the help they have given us in our moment of need.

On this day we see the beginning of a new Arab era. A new dawn between Iraq and Kuwait marked by reconciliation and reconstruction in both countries.

Today, pains and sorrows turn into hope and determination. Today, a day for reflection and self-appraisal, to heal the wounds, restore Arab unity, and lay solid foundations for a better future.

The nation did not start with us that should end with us.

This is the day when we should consider how to revive and develop the Arab regional order, to make it more capable of containing our problems and facing the challenges that face our nation.

It is a day of determination for us to build our national strength, to restore confidence in ourselves and to safeguard our values and beliefs.

It is a day when all should turn to solving their problems, the border issues being at the forefront, so that the nation will never again find itself in a situation

of reconstruction, we shall propose the national charter for national endorsement that we may, in the light of the charter, organise and, God willing, guide our participatory process with greater cooperation in the service of our country and our Arab Nation equally. Our historic national responsibilities lie in providing the elements of success for our experiment which may offer a model for our Arab brethren, in their turn, to expand their participatory process in the service of their countries.

On this occasion I should also like to thank all those who helped us during this crisis and who understood and appreciated our principled stand, our propensity for peace and our dedication to conflict resolution through peaceful means.

We would like to assure the whole world that Jordan throws its arms open wide to all those who wish to establish friendly relations based on mutual respect and cooperation.

Jordan extends its hand to all those who reciprocate with warmth and honour that we may work together in the knowledge that rhetoric will yield to meaningful deeds. Jordan will always belong to its nation, will always strive for international cooperation in achieving prosperity for all. This is Jordan's long-standing belief which, God willing, it will never abandon.

Here in Jordan we are proud of our democratic experiment which in this crisis has been a foundation stone of the edifice of our national unity. It has revealed the awareness of our people, their fears for the nation's welfare and their deep concern for regional developments in a context of responsible national and patriotic participation.

On this day we must also focus attention on the growing disparity between rich and poor nations in this region which predicates con-

national rights of the Palestinian people on their national soil.

Foremost among these rights is their right to self-determination and to representation in a peace process aimed at resolving the Arab/Israeli conflict. These rights constitute the basis for the achievement of lasting peace and enduring stability in the region, a goal which we seek jointly with the international community, guided by the noblest of values and by a commitment to the application of all international principles with equal enthusiasm and dedication.

It is the day on which we ought to bear witness to the interrelation of interests amongst the nations of the world, the interdependence amongst its peoples, the need to live in harmony with each other, to enjoy our resources in a framework of equality and by the grace of God to fulfil the trust of future generations.

On this day we should also not be impervious to the anguish

of conflict that could lead to its ruin. It is the day when serious thinking ought to commence on how our abilities should complement construction and development in a context of cooperation, to safeguard our human and natural resources and to release the potential of our nation's youth.

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## Morceli sets 1,500m. record

SEVILLE (AP) — Algerian Noureddine Morceli celebrated his 21st birthday Thursday by setting a 1,500-metre indoor world record, clocking 3 minutes, 34.16 seconds in the Placido Fernández Viagas track meet.

But he had to wait nearly two hours for a photo-finish confirmation after an Algerian teammate strayed too near the finish line and triggered the automatic timing device a second before Morceli crossed the line.

Morceli broke the record of 3:34.20 set exactly one year ago on the same track by Briton Peter Elliott. He was followed by Spaniard Fermín Cacho at 3:35.29 and Portuguese runner Mario Silva at 3:36.16.

"The race worked out exactly as planned from start to finish," Morceli told the Spanish News

Agency (EFE). "I felt really good."

Morceli said the audience had spurred him on and said he was looking forward to facing Elliott on the same track at the Mar. 8-10 World Indoor Track and Field Championships.

Officials first said the University of Southern California student had run the race in a record-shattering 3:33.14. But they corrected the time after ruling one of the race clocks had been stopped too soon.

American "Rabbit" Kevin Washington set a blistering 1:53.55 pace for the first 800 metres.

In the 3,000 metres, Briton Mark Rowland won in 8 minutes, 2.70 seconds. Spaniard Anacleto Jimenez was second in 8:02.90 and French runner Pascal Thiebaut finished third in 8:03.10.

British sprinter Linford Christie overcame a poor start to win the 60-metre men's run in 6.56 seconds. Christie nearly fell at the gun but rallied to edge Nigerian Chedi Imoh, who finished in 23.14.

blocks and led until a few metres from the finish line. Harris, running alongside Johnson, stayed on the winner's shoulder and finished in 46.68. Simon was at 46.77.

American "Rabbit" Kevin Washington set a blistering 1:53.55 pace for the first 800 metres.

In women's events, Jamaican Merlene Ottey won both the 60-metre and 200-metre races.

Ottey won the 60-metre race in 7.08 seconds, ahead of Soviet runner Irina Sergeyeva at 7.10 and Cuban Liliana Allen at 7.16.

Less than an hour later, she ran away with the 200 metres in 22.57, ahead of Diana Dixon of the United States at 22.99 and Sandra Myers, a U.S.-born Spanish sprinter, who finished in 23.14.

6.57. Andres Simon was awarded the same time for his third-place finish.

But Christie could not complete a double in the 200 metres.

Fellow Briton John Regis won the race in 20.66, three-tenths of a second of the world pace. Christie was second in 20.83 and Sandro Floris was third in 21.15.

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## Barcelona poised to take another step towards title

By Reuters

SPANISH Soccer League leaders Barcelona, under the shadow of the heart attack suffered by coach Cruyff, should take another step towards the title when they host lowly Tenerife Sunday.

Five points clear in the first division, Barcelona showed the absence of Cruyff was not affecting them too much as they demolished second division Las Palmas 6-0 in a Spanish Cup tie Wednesday.

Deputy Coach Carlos Rexach will be on the bench in place of Cruyff, who Wednesday underwent successful by-pass surgery to correct a blockage of a coronary artery.

Second-placed Atletico Madrid, euphoric after Wednesday's cup victory over neighbours Real Madrid, also have a home game Sunday, against Athletic Bilbao.

The Basques of Bilbao must beat Atletico goalkeeper Abel Resino, who has now gone 11 full league matches plus 60 minutes without conceding a goal, a Spanish first division record.

Italy's AC Milan are full of confidence as they prepare for a week in which they play champions Napoli as well as French side Marseille in the European Cup.

Milan, third in the league, will be without injured captain Franco Baresi and suspended defender Alessandro Costacurta for the home game with Napoli Sunday.

Baresi, who has dislocated a shoulder, will also miss Wednesday's encounter with Marseille.

Vincenzo Finocchiaro, assistant to Milan coach Arrigo Sacchi, believes last Sunday's 1-1 draw with lowly Cagliari is best ignored since it was partly provoked by heavy training intended to have the side at maximum readiness for the next two games.

"I knew it was going to be difficult in Cagliari ... however, that's the price we'll have to pay for being at our best against Napoli Sunday and, above all, against Marseille."

### European Soccer

League leaders Sampdoria, too, are in a buoyant mood on the eve of their away game at Atalanta with coach Vujadin Boskov reporting no serious injury problems, apart from long time injured sweeper, Luca Pellegrini.

Internazionale appear to have the easiest task of the top four Sunday when they should be at full strength at home to relegation battlers Pisa.

Juventus, by contrast, have a tougher game when they travel south to face Lazio at Rome's Olympic Stadium.

Maresca host second-placed Monaco in the French League Saturday.

A victory against Monaco would almost secure the title for Marseille, as they would move six points clear of their closest rivals with 10 matches left in the league.

But Belgian coach Raymond Goethals faces problems ahead of the Milan clash.

After Tuesday's training, former World Cup star Jean Tigana criticised Goethals for not selecting him for the Monaco match. "Goethals does not care about my experience or my skills. I'm not playing in Monaco, I probably won't play in Milan if nobody dies, I won't stand a chance of playing," he said.

"Tigana is 35, I have nothing else to say," Goethals said.

Bayern Munich should stay top of the German Bundesliga this weekend when they entertain St. Pauli, who are in disarray near the bottom of the table after sacking coach Helmut Schulte.

Second-placed Werder Bremen have an awkward game at Borussia Moenchengladbach Sunday.

Kaiserslautern, the big surprise this season, lie third, just one point behind Bayern and Werder. The south west club have a vital game in hand and Saturday's clash with fourth-placed Eintracht Frankfurt is crucial.

In the Netherlands, league leaders PSV Eindhoven and third-placed Ajax Amsterdam both face tough home matches.

PSV entertain sleeping giants Feyenoord Rotterdam Sunday, with Feyenoord again stuck in midtable.

Ajax, four points behind PSV with two games in hand, host second-placed Groningen.

## Washington D.C. bids to host World Cup matches

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's capital, which has rabid football fans, is being looked at as a soccer hotbed by a group hoping to bring at least five World Cup soccer matches to Washington in 1994.

World Cup Washington, D.C., which is competing with 31 other U.S. cities to hold matches, submitted its written bid Wednesday along with a \$155,000 deposit

to bring the matches to Robert F. Kennedy Stadium.

The stadium is home to the Washington Redskins of the National Football League.

World Cup matches will be held in the United States for the first time in their 60-year history in 1994. Washington is competing with cities including Los Angeles, Tampa and Miami to stage up seven matches.

Meanwhile, the world soccer chiefs are planning to use an

entire 32-game junior tournament this year to experiment with drastic rule changes intended to produce more goalscoring.

It is the most concrete response yet by FIFA to complaints that last year's World Cup finals produced too much defensive, safety-first play.

FIFA's first world championship for players under age 17, set for Ecuador next August, is to become a testing ground for ways to make soccer more crowd-pleasing.

General Secretary Joseph Blatter, interviewed on Swiss television Monday night, outlined the changes FIFA wants to try at the two-week, 16-nation tournament.

The North and the South, divided since the end of World War II and which warred from 1950-53, are using sports as one way to promote political rapprochement aimed at eventual reunification.

Earlier Thursday, a South Korean sports official expressed hope of agreeing with its northern neighbour on fielding a single team for the 1992 summer Olympics in Barcelona.

FIFA's soccer world governing body, noted North and South Korea played as a combined soccer team in two official "full internationals" last October.

Full internationals involve the senior national teams of two countries.

FIFA said the single team will play in the Youth World Cup in red uniforms and under the name of Korea.

Their flag will display the blue outlines of both Koreas on a white background and the folk song Arirang will serve as national anthem, a FIFA statement said.

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General Secretary Joseph Blatter, interviewed on Swiss television Monday night, outlined the changes FIFA wants to try at the two-week, 16-nation tournament.

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Earlier Thursday, a South Korean sports official expressed hope of agreeing with its northern neighbour on fielding a single team for the 1992 summer Olympics in Barcelona.

FIFA's soccer world governing body, noted North and South Korea played as a combined soccer team in two official "full internationals" last October.

## Kuwait looks for special OPEC oil quota

LONDON (R) — Kuwait, facing heavy spending to rebuild, will seek a special OPEC oil production quota to help pay for reconstruction, oil Minister Rashid Salem Al Ameeri said in remarks published Thursday.

"Kuwait will ask the organisation to take its circumstances into account on production and prices," Ameeri told the London-based Arabic language newspaper Al Hayat.

"At the last OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) meeting there were hints from some member colleagues that Kuwait had special circumstances that should be taken into consideration," he added.

Ameeri cited a precedent when the 13-member oil group allowed Iraq and Iran special production quotas during their 1980-88 war.

Baghdad, just before invading the emirate, accused Kuwait of economic sabotage, saying it was flooding the world oil market and driving prices down.

There has been no official estimate of the costs of putting right the damage to the tiny ultra-modern Gulf state but unofficial figures ranged from \$50 to \$100 billion.

Ameeri declined to say when production would be resumed, noting that more than 500 oil wells set ablaze by Iraqis would take a long time to restore.

"We don't have a clear picture of the damage yet," he said.

He estimated that Kuwait had lost \$7 billion in oil revenue since the Iraqi invasion.

## British insurers lower war risk rates for Gulf cargo

LONDON (R) — London underwriters have reduced war risk rates for sea cargo to and from the Gulf, reflecting apparent lower risks in the region, an insurance industry body has said.

War risk rates for Saudi Red Sea ports, Israeli Red Sea and Mediterranean ports and Turkey were abandoned, the underwriters' War Risk Committee said. Jordan remained on the list, although at much lower rates.

The committee, representing underwriters on the Institute of London Underwriters (ILU) and Lloyd's of London insurance markets, might meet again soon and further reductions were

possible, an ILU source said.

Marine war risk insurance now costs 0.0625 per cent of the cargo value to and from northern Iranian ports and points north of 27.30 degrees north in the Gulf, which includes Iran's main oil terminal on Kharg Island.

This compares with 0.25 per cent charged since Feb. 13, when the last changes were announced.

Rates for southern Iranian ports and the southern Gulf were now at 0.05 per cent against a minimum level applicable in war situations, brokers said.

In southwestern parts of the Gulf west of 52 degrees east and including Qatar and Bahrain, rates

are now 0.125 per cent against a previous 0.5 per cent.

Most air cargo rates for the Gulf were also cut to around 0.025 per cent. Previously they were "held covered" or up to 0.20 per cent.

Hull war risks, negotiated between individual underwriters and clients, have shown sharp declines recently after reaching a minimum level applicable in war situations, brokers said.

But both cargo and hull are unlikely to return immediately to pre-war levels because the Gulf region will still be classified as risky for some time, underwriters said.

## Brady defends sweeping programme to reform U.S. bank industry

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady said Tuesday the Bush administration's banking reform proposals would prevent a repeat of the savings and loan crisis that is costing taxpayers billions of dollars.

Brady said the administration's proposal for banks "represents sound and prudent regulation with badly needed reforms to protect the taxpayer."

He stressed that the reforms are markedly different from the deregulation of the savings and loan banks, which ultimately led to the collapse of hundreds of institutions, requiring the U.S. government to bail out depositors at a projected cost to taxpayers of \$50 billion.

When the thrift industry was deregulated, Brady said, "we left S&L (savings and loan) owners go to the casino with Uncle Sam's chequebook in hand."

## Italy offers \$55m aid to Syria

DAMASCUS (AP) — Italy's state secretary for foreign affairs met Thursday with President Hafez Assad and afterward said his mission was extending \$55 million in new aid to Syria.

Claudio Lenoci left for Rome following the meeting.

Lenoci said Italy planned to promote economic, business and cultural relations with Syria and said the Italian government had allocated 60 billion lire (\$55 million) "to finance cooperation over the next three years."

Most of the money was to take the form of grants, he said.

"Dialogue with Syria is very important in order to establish the new stability in the area after the war is over," Lenoci said.

"Syria's attitude during the crisis has pushed things in this direction. We much appreciate Syria's role...."

## AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, February 28, 1991  
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	666.0	670.0
Pound Sterling	1280.6	1288.3
Deutschmark	438.9	441.5
Swiss franc	508.0	511.0
French franc	129.0	129.8
Japanese yen (for 100)	504.8	507.8
Dutch guilder	389.2	391.9
Swiss crown	118.1	118.8
Italian lira (for 100)	58.7	59.1
Belgian franc (for 10)	212.7	214.0

## LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.9020/30	U.S. dollar	1.1505/15
One U.S. dollar	1.5330/37	Canadian dollar	1.5330/37
	1.7290/7300	Deutschmarks	1.7290/7300
	1.3320/27	Dutch guilder	1.3320/27
	31.55/60	Swiss francs	31.55/60
	5.2220/70	Belgian francs	5.2220/70
	1146/1147	French francs	1146/1147
	134.15/22	Italian lire	134.15/22
	5.6950/7000	Japanese yen	5.6950/7000
	5.9950/6.000	Swedish crowns	5.9950/6.000
	5.8950/9.000	Norwegian crowns	5.8950/9.000
One ounce of gold	367.00/367.50	Danish crowns	367.00/367.50
		U.S. dollars	

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Bank share prices plunged following the launch of National Australia Bank's record rights issue. The All Ordinaries index ended 10.4 up at 1395.2.

TOKYO — Stocks closed sharply lower on disappointment as the end of the Gulf war failed to revive Wall Street's rally. The Nikkei index fell \$27.65 to 25,881.57.

HONG KONG — After profit-taking in active trading the Hang Seng index ended up 0.23 to 3,552.37.

SINGAPORE — Despite share falls over a broad front the Straits Times industrial index rose 3.41 points to 1,462.98, helped by gains in some index component stocks.

BOMBAY — Market closed until Monday. The Bombay Stock Exchange index closed Thursday at 1,220.41, down 1.14.

FRANKFURT — "The war is over and everyone is looking at the homemade catastrophe," said Michael Reitberger, trader at Citibank. Concern about the cost of German unity sent the DAX index down 25.35 points to 1,516.74, its lowest close since 1,486.52 on Feb. 14.

PARIS — Profit-taking followed the buying spree that greeted the Gulf ceasefire. The CAC-40 index, which closed Thursday at a six-month high, fell 13.00 points to 1,746.79.

LONDON — Hopes of a cut in British interest rates limited the effect of a weaker start on Wall Street. The FTSE index gained six points to 2,386.9.

NEW YORK — Wall Street recovered early losses. At 1630 GMT the Dow Jones industrials were up 1.24 to 2,883.42.

## TO DAY AT CONCORD

TEQUILA SUNRISE

Mei Gibson \* Kurt Russell  
Michelle Pfeiffer  
In

Show: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Tel: 677420

## RAINFOREST

Nadia Al Jundi  
Farouq Al Fishawi  
in

DEATH SQUAD

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

## PHILADELPHIA

Silvester Stallone  
in

TANGO AND CASH

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30

Tel: 634144

## NIJOM

Kim Basinger  
in  
9½ WEEKS

Cinema

Tel: 675571

## PLAZA

PICASSO TRIGGER

Performances: 12:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:15, 9:15

## Gulf crisis cost airlines about \$1b in January

## Travel firms said unlikely to boom as Gulf war ends

PARIS (R) — The end of the Gulf war does not signal a rapid recovery in business for Europe's airlines and leisure firms, industry analysts said Thursday.

Fear of "terrorism," roundly blamed for a 25 per cent drop in European airline traffic since war erupted on Jan. 17, would take longer to dissipate, they said.

And, some of Europe's major economies were slowing down, crimping the travel budgets of companies and individuals alike.

"There will be a certain resumption of travel, but I think it will be slow," said Jossette Lahon of Paris broker Puget Lahon.

"Everyone has been concentrating on the Gulf for the last several months and they have perhaps been ignoring the effects of slowing economies across Europe," said County Northwest leisure industry analyst Julie Farar.

France, which enjoyed solid growth for most of 1990 but saw its gross domestic product shrink for the first time in nearly four years in the fourth quarter, was predicted.

The IATA statement said worldwide financial results for 1991 were expected to be "very disappointing." It said growth in scheduled air traffic was likely to be below three to four per cent for 1991. Before the eruption of the Gulf crisis, an expansion of six to seven per cent had been predicted.

IATA said data received by IATA showed airline results for January were \$1 billion lower than budgeted figures. It said Middle Eastern airlines lost \$200 million compared with their targets, European carriers lost \$600 million and North American companies more than \$200 million.

About 15,400 flights scheduled for January were cancelled, some four per cent of the total. The statement said this included 5,500 by Middle Eastern airlines, 1,300 by European carriers and 1,900 by North American airlines.

The statistics do not include charter flights or freight traffic.

The spokesman said IATA planned a full survey of reasons for the fall in passengers. He added that initial studies among businessmen showed economic recession and company economy drives were more important that terrorist fears in travel cutbacks. The spokesman asked not to be identified.

Israel opens door to foreign investments in stocks

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. consumer spending, which collapsed in the final quarter of 1990, dropped another 0.6 per cent as 1991 began, the government said Thursday in a report suggesting the recession continued into the new year.

"Consumers are in a lot of trouble," Bruce Steinberg, an economist with Merrill Lynch Capital Markets in New York, said of the sector providing two-thirds of the nation's economic activity.

The Commerce Department said spending in January fell to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$7.72 trillion, the steepest slide since a 1.3 per cent fall in January 1987 and more than erasing a 0.5 per cent advance in December.

Economist John of Kemper Financial Services in Chicago said the decline is more evidence that the January-March period of 1991 will be the second quarterly contraction in a row.

A recession generally is defined as at least two consecutive quarters of negative growth.

The department reported Wednesday that the gross national product — the total output of the nation's goods and services — fell 0.9 per cent from October through December. That included a huge 2.9 per cent drop in consumer spending.

And while the apparent end of the Gulf war is expected to boost

back and will continue to be," said Farrar. "If France seems to be sliding into a recession, I would expect French firms to do the same."

"We may get a small upswing in business travel as some companies that have banned employees from travelling may lift those bans," Farrar said.

But Serge Trigano, managing director of French leisure group Mediterranee, said he believed there was pent-up vacation demand and he expected a strong recovery by June.

"We estimate there will be a fantastic interest in travel for people who did not go on trips this winter," Trigano said.

At least four European carriers

European Airlines, said he expected business to pick up, not by much.

"We can easily imagine the certain travel plans have been changed, that some people who might have travelled this summer may not," he added.

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At least four European carriers

Lufthansa of Germany, Air France, Olympic of Greece and Austrian Airlines — said Thursday they would resume flights to Israel suspended because of the Gulf war.

"The Gulf war is a much more major event with much higher probability of terrorism after the war," Will said. "Also, that (1986/87) recovery of traffic happened at a time when economies on both sides of the Atlantic were far stronger than that today."

## Khaleda Zia's party wins 140 seats in Bangladesh elections

DHAKA (AP) — The victory of Khaleda Zia's party in parliamentary elections is a monument to the memory of her assassinated husband and the realisation of her nation's long-frustrated dreams of democracy.

With nearly all election results tallied Thursday, Mrs. Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party has an insurmountable lead in the contest for parliament's 300 seats.

Mrs. Zia, 46, has often said there would have been no need for her to enter politics if her husband, President Ziaur Rahman, were alive. But the mother of two has proved to be a savvy politician who confounded expectations by trouncing the better-organised Awami League of her rival, Sheikh Hasina.

With 294 districts reporting from Wednesday's voting, Mrs. Zia's party has 140 seats versus the Awami League's 84.

A shaken Hasina declared that "something mischievous went against us," but foreign election observers said the voting appeared to be fair.

Mrs. Zia and Hasina, who is the daughter of another assassinated president, temporarily shelved their longtime enmity last October to lead a mass protest that forced President Hussain Muhammad Ershad to resign. Ershad seized power in a 1982 coup.

### Thai king approves new constitution

BANGKOK (AP) — King Bhumibol Adulyadej Friday approved the new military junta's interim constitution, starting the process toward formation of a provisional government.

Details of the document were not immediately available, but junta leaders have said it aims to reduce the widespread practice of vote-buying.

Junta leader Gen. Sankara Kongsompong, the supreme commander of Thailand's armed forces, said the military seized power last Saturday because Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan's elected government was corrupt, tried to destroy

Ershad, who has been under house arrest since Dec. 12 and faces trial on corruption and other charges, demonstrated he still has political clout. His Jatiya Party won 35 seats, including five that went to Ershad himself.

The former army general can keep only one of the seats, with the others put up for by-elections. Under Bangladeshi law, he would automatically be stripped of the remaining seat if convicted.

Her party is usually vaguely described as "centrist." It adopted a slogan of "neither East nor West" and pledged to bring capitalism to Bangladesh — which might attract foreign investors but has little to offer many people in this country of 110 million.

Four seats have not yet been declared. Elections for two others were postponed when candidates died — one in campaign violence, the other of natural causes.

Mrs. Zia, a stylish mother of two sons, emerged from her bungalow in the heart of Dhaka's chief military base shortly before sundown Thursday to place a wreath on the tomb of her husband, an army general who seized power in a coup in 1976.

Gen. Zia was elected President two years later, after founding the Bangladesh Nationalist Party in an attempt to legitimise his power. He was assassinated by army officers in 1981. The party's

quest for identity founders until 1983, when it turned to Mrs. Zia and made her a vice chairman and later chairman.

She quickly proved to be a captivating speaker who dazzled the crowds in over-populated, under-fed Bangladesh with her glamorous sari and silky complexion. She charmed Bangladeshis with pledges of democracy and enough rice for everybody.

Her party is usually vaguely described as "centrist." It adopted a slogan of "neither East nor West" and pledged to bring capitalism to Bangladesh — which might attract foreign investors but has little to offer many people in this country of 110 million.

With a per capita annual income of \$170, the city slums and the mud-hut villages dotting Bangladesh's countryside are full of people who routinely go without food for a day or two because they can't earn enough money to subsist.

Democracy is an untested concept in Bangladesh.

One of Mrs. Zia's first tasks will be to put together a government coalition in parliament, because her party fell short of a majority of seats.

Jamaat-E-Islami, an Islamic party that is less fundamentalist than its counterparts in other

Muslim countries, has said it considers itself a natural partner for the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. Some of the small parties and independents also are potential allies.

Ershad's Jatiya Party also has enough seats to play a pivotal role. Ershad himself is a political pariah at the moment, but his party has something in common with Mrs. Zia's. Both were founded in the Cantonment, as the Dhaka military base is popularly called, and both retain bulk-wraps of support in the army.

Retired Army Maj. Abdul Mannan, who won one of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party's seats, emphatically responded "no way" when asked about an alliance with Jatiya.

But when asked about a future with the Jatiya Party minus Ershad, Mannan said: "I think without Ershad, Jatiya would be a better party. Everybody in the army is not bad."

One option for Mrs. Zia is to give up her seat in parliament and run for the presidency, a job now held on a caretaker basis by Supreme Court Justice Shahabuddin Ahmad. This would give her the top job in government as well as largest share of seats in parliament.

Several aides said Thursday this option is under consideration.

### Yugoslav leaders meet as crisis deepens

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Leaders of Yugoslavia's feuding republics met Friday in their latest attempt to settle political differences and agree on the future of the crumbling federation.

The meeting is the sixth since Jan. 10 in a series of so-far fruitless summits of republic leaders held under the auspices of the Yugoslav Federation's eight-man presidency.

"Chances for reaching an agreement are getting steadily smaller," Croatia's centre-right President Franjo Tudjman said in an interview in Zagreb's Vjesnik daily.

Tudjman was the only president absent from Friday's meeting, but Stipe Mesic, Croatia's representative on the collective presidency, attended the talks.

There was no immediate explanation for Tudjman's absence.

The country's simmering crisis pits the independence-minded, pro-Western states of Croatia and Slovenia against Communist-ruled Serbia, the largest Yugoslav republic, and Montenegro, it said.

Croatia and Slovenia advocate turning Yugoslavia into a loose association of sovereign nations. Serbia and Montenegro, which is also Communist-ruled, want a strong, centralised federation.

The central state of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the southern republic of Macedonia want a compromise. Both stand to lose territory if Serbia's President Slobodan Milosevic makes good on threats to expand Serbia to include all ethnic Serbs in other states should the federation split.

Citing the inability of the republics to reach a compromise on the country's constitution future, state parliaments in Slovenia and Croatia voted last week to initiate procedures for secession from Yugoslavia.

Those votes do not "preclude the possibility of forming a new community of independent republics," said Slovenian president Milan Kucan in an interview in Belgrade's Borba daily Friday.

The five-day congress closed Friday, the 70th anniversary of the founding of the party on March 1, 1921.

Dashyondon takes over leadership of the party from Gombozhan Ochirbat, who was named to the post a year ago during a party shakeup. He succeeded Jambyn Batmönch, who resigned with the rest of his five-man politburo in response to demands that the party be led by younger, more reform-minded members.

The reorganisation was prompted by a pro-democracy movement challenging the Communists' seven-decade grip on power. Mass protests and a hunger strike by demonstrators last winter and spring forced the Communists to legalise opposition parties and hold elections.

The Xinhua report said Dashyondon, 45, was elected to the control commission of the party Central Committee in April.

Ershad, who has been under house arrest since Dec. 12 and faces trial on corruption and other charges, demonstrated he still has political clout. His Jatiya Party won 35 seats, including five that went to Ershad himself.

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### Soviets in period of authoritarian reform — U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — The Soviet Union is now undergoing a period of authoritarian reform in which the state is expected to continue to use heavy-handed measures to protect the union and restore order, a senior U.S. official has said.

In testimony to a Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee, State Department counsellor Robert Zoellick gave the most comprehensive on-the-record U.S. assessment of change in the Soviet Union since the Kremlin cracked down last month on pro-independence forces in the Baltic republics.

He described this as a "difficult period in U.S.-Soviet relations" but said the successful effort to build an international coalition against Iraq ahead of the Gulf war would not have been possible without Moscow's cooperation.

Zoellick, one of Secretary of State Baker's top aides, said that for some time the United States "will need to maintain a flexible approach that can adjust to important problems raised by a major nation in great flux."

He predicted the current Soviet economic programme "will almost certainly fail."

In all, he adopted a more moderate approach to a Soviet Union in turmoil than conservative senators like Orrin Hatch of Utah who urged that the United States distance itself more from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and establish more formal ties with pro-independence republics.

Recent disorder reflected in a worsening economy and rising calls for autonomy "tapped deep-seated Russian fears," and saw Gorbachev turn to the right, "in his view to preserve his credibility as a leader and to preserve the union," Zoellick said.

He speculated Gorbachev may believe that in the face of such pressures he must act forcefully to restore order so as to "save" his reform programme.

"So I suspect that the Soviet Union is now in a period of what I would label authoritarian reform," he said.

"The state will be willing to use heavy-handed measures to restore what it considers to be the necessary prerequisites for a continued programme of economic and social modernisation ... the greatest danger is that the authoritarian elements could overwhelm the reform impulse," he said.

Because conditions in the Soviet Union are likely to worsen, the United States needs to secure the benefits it has achieved in several years of improved ties, continue to probe for other points of "mutual advantage" in the changed context and "seek to manage the uncertainty" by expanding contacts with the republics and pro-independence leaders, he said.

Croatia and Slovenia advocate turning Yugoslavia into a loose association of sovereign nations. Serbia and Montenegro, which is also Communist-ruled, want a strong, centralised federation.

The recurring leadership changes reflect the Communist Party's uncertainty in Mongolia's new multiparty political system and in the face of the nation's food shortages, inflation and falling industrial production.

Little is known about Budragchayn Dashyondon, the new Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee chairman. But Communist leaders in recent months have insisted that Mongolia remain on a clear Socialist path.

Despite the heavy security, separatists seized two policemen in the southern Kashmire Valley town of Sopore Thursday night, one of them in his own police station.

Police said the other, abducted from a nearby street shortly after the raid on the police station, was released Friday.

It was a kidnap that turned sour anti-Indian feelings in the Kashmire Valley into open rebellion.

Five days after Mufti Mohammad Sayeed took office at home (interior) minister in December 1989, his daughter was kidnapped in Srinagar by militants belonging to the Jammu and Kashmire Liberation Front (JKLF).

She was freed the following month in return for five jailed militants, whose release prompted huge celebrations that turned anti-Indian riots that were ruthlessly put down.

Intiaz, wife of an electrical engineer with a four-year-old son, is the victim of the third kidnap operation by the JKSLF.

In April last year, they grabbed the vice chancellor of Srinagar University, his private secretary and a senior official of a state-run firm. All three were killed after the government refused to release militants in exchange for them.

The reorganisation was prompted by a pro-democracy movement challenging the Communists' seven-decade grip on power. Mass protests and a hunger strike by demonstrators last winter and spring forced the Communists to legalise opposition parties and hold elections.

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### Latvian Communists warn of civil war

MOSCOW (AP) — Three days before Latvians and Estonians vote on independence in unofficial referendums, the top Latvian Communist official had warned of possible civil war.

Estonian officials say Soviet soldiers, who constitute up to one-third of the population by some estimates, may not vote.

Estonia's population is two-thirds Estonian, but several cities in the northeast near Leningrad are near wholly Russian.

Also Thursday, the United States sent its first shipment of aid directly to the Baltic republics.

Presidential rule can include dissolving the local parliament and imposing virtual dictatorial control over the republic.

The vote in Latvia is expected to be close, since only 50 per cent of the population is ethnic Latvian. The rest are mostly Russian and Byelorussian.

Latvians, who are make up 80 per cent of their republic, overwhelmingly voted in favour of independence in a similar poll on Feb. 9.

In Lithuania, the parliament on Thursday passed a resolution calling for passive resistance if Soviet authorities use force to restrict parliament's authority.

Also Thursday, Deumark gave de facto recognition to Lithuania's independent government, said Rita Dapkus of the Lithuanian Parliamentary Press Office.

Ms. Dapkus said the foreign ministers of Denmark and Lithuania signed a protocol in which Denmark stated that it has always considered Lithuania's forcible incorporation into the Soviet Union in 1940 illegal.

The central government is waging an undeclared war against the republic, which has refused to participate in the creation of the so-called new federation and to sign the union treaty," said a statement issued by parliament.

The Soviet Union recalled its ambassador to Iceland earlier this month after Iceland became the first country to recognise Lithuania's independence declaration last March.

The resolution passed Thursday by the Lithuanian parliament stated that all Soviet laws and orders are illegal in the Baltic republic. "All administrative institutions of the Republic of Lithuania and their officials must not cooperate with the occupiers," it said.

Lithuanians should use "non-violent insubordination and non-cooperation" against occupiers, it said.

The resolution was approved because "the Soviet Union continues to carry out acts of aggression directed against the republic of Lithuania," it said.

In Estonia, local officials in the

largely Russian city of Kohtla-Jarve allowed Soviet border guards to vote in preliminary independence balloting, the Estonian News Agency reported.

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Georgia is among a number of republics that have refused to sign a draft treaty defining the relationship between the Soviet Union's 15 republics and the central government.

The nationalist parliament voted to hold a referendum on independence on March 31 when voters will be asked:

"Do you want to restore the state independence of Georgia based on the declaration taken on May 26, 1918?"

Georgia, a republic with a history of strident nationalism and armed struggle, experienced a brief period of independence from 1918 until 1921 when it was crushed by the Red Army.

Parliament also voted to hold peace talks with the rebel region of South Ossetia. Leaders of the region declared last September they wanted to form their own republic within the Soviet Union rather than be part of an independent Georgia.

In Estonia